

# THE CENTER CULT



News Magazine from the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Orlando



Hello, greetings and welcome to our pride edition of The Center Fold. Inside you will find a variety of articles which illustrate positive reasons for gay pride, and ways to demonstrate that pride. Remember, there is nothing wrong with being yourself.

The cover of this issue is appropriately called "A Study of Gesture in the Freedom of Self." It illustrates the coming to terms with one's identity. The painting shows hands waving a giant flag representing the physical form of expression or "flag waving."

This outer expression is coupled with the inner, spiritual "coming to terms" as represented by the spheres which branch from the flag and spiral toward the background. The spheres transform from geometric shapes (dictated roles) to biomorphic shapes (one's own ideals) to triangles (a gay symbol). The triangles then become sailing ships steering clear of the rocky shore, an obstacle which represents society with its criticisms.

Through the use of double imagery, the "society" of rock contains the face of a woman watching the metamorphosis before her. She is a person who, through her own choice, cannot be her free self. All the while, change is about.

The message is clear: You have the ability to actually select the kind of life you want to live. If you want to live in despair, go ahead and select it, but you have other viable alternatives. Furthermore, you should not go to bed at night the way you got up in the morning. In some real way you've got to be different; bigger, better, more understanding. And remember that to all the questions life has, love is always the answer. If you do it, and I do it, we can change the world.

Editor, Eriq Poff

## From We The People

The recent events in the Orange Sheriff's Department demonstrate the importance of an organized and united gay community. The ability of informed and articulate lesbians and gay men to speak out quickly on this issue helped sway public opinion in our favor.

The Tom Woodard case will now be settled by the courts but the fight does not stop there. Our next battle is with the Orange County Commis-

sion in our effort to enact a ban on discrimination based on sexual identity. It's a fight we can win, but not without the support of the entire gay and lesbian community.

Our current "Campaign Against Homophobia" and the subsequent push for gay rights legislation have been costly to the few individuals who have been involved. The donation of your time and energy is as vital to our cause as the donation of money. If nothing else

at least send us some postage stamps.

We are also collecting money to pay for the legal expenses of Deputy Tom Woodard. If you wish to donate to this fund simply indicate that on the bottom of your check made out to We The People. Thank-you for your support.

Jim Ford  
for We The People

## From A Center Fold Artist

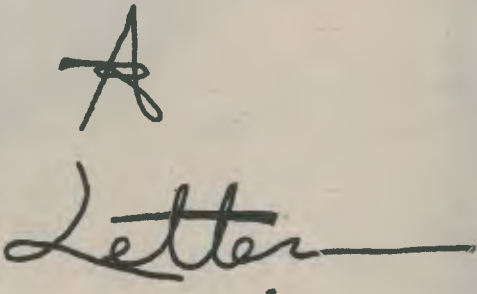
As the artist whom designed the advertisement for Murphy Jim's which appeared in the March edition of The Center Fold, I feel that I must speak out concerning the reuse of this ad in two other publications published this month. This is not to say that I feel animosity towards these publications, but that the advertiser used poor judgment in submitting the layout for printing in publications other than the Center Fold.

As one of the many Center Fold volunteers whom devote effort and time to this publication, I do not feel that an ad designed specifically to enhance the pages of The Center Fold and to advertise a business such as Murphy Jim's should be reused if a release for the original is not obtained.

Murphy Jim's ad was designed free of charge for The Center Fold and would have cost a considerable amount

had I charged a normal freelance rate. To reproduce the advertisement by copying and then resubmitting it to other publications without obtaining the release of the original artwork takes advantage of the volunteer effort used to produce this ad. I do not feel that this is legitimate practice by the former advertiser, Murphy Jim's.

Center Fold Artist,  
Lisa Anderson.



Dear Editor,

What a shock, albeit a pleasant one, to receive the "new and improved" Center Fold.

After years of reading "The Washington Blade" (DC) its encouraging to see our local paper emerge into its present format. I hope our community agrees and supports your endeavors. We ain't D.C. for sure, but we are certainly entering the "Big Leagues."

Congrats to you and your staff!!

Best wishes,  
Steven Estes

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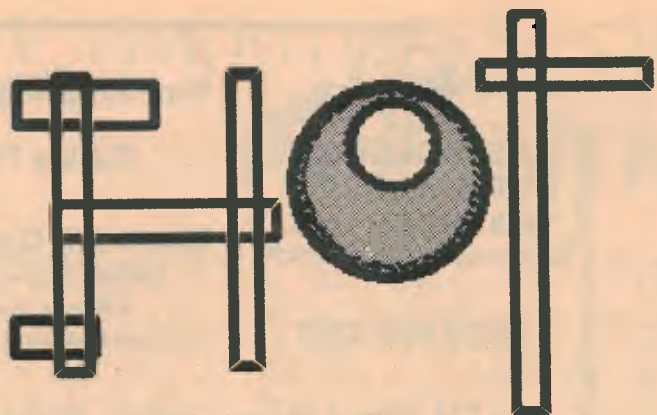
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## OFF THE PRESS

### OUSTED DEPUTY GETS CONTINUED SUPPORT

Former deputy Tom Woodard, who was ousted by Sheriff, Walt Gallagher after an investigation revealed Woodard to be bisexual, continues to receive support as local groups speak out on the human rights issue.

Support began with the successful planning and executing of a "Rally Against Homophobia," which was held May 20 at Constitutional Green.

Actions intensified on May 24 when representatives of Peace Works, Gay Parents Coalition and We The People met briefly with Sheriff Gallagher's representative, Jim Soloman; Margaret Marshall, a legal aide and Steve Jones, an assistant to the Sheriff.

We The People representative, Saviz Shafaie explained there were three major goals of the meeting; to show con-

tinued support for Woodard; to ask for a public apology from the Sheriff's office for their constant comparison of homosexuals to those involved in criminal acts; and to continue the campaign against homophobia.

The concerned citizens read statements and letters which emphasized a concern for the right to privacy. The group also offered services to the police and sheriff's departments to help prevent misinformation which lead to homophobia and violence against gays. One such service is an anti-homophobia video which has been used effectively by New York City police.

Saviz said the meeting was positive and that the group requested a response from the sheriff's department by June 6.

The rally, which began publicity of the Woodard case,

hosted many speakers including Woodard and his lawyer, Bill Sheaffer. Various community groups were also represented.

Center Coordinator, Michael Wanzie said the speeches had a common theme, that the situation was a human rights issue, not a gay one. It is felt that this position has created much support for Woodard, including support from within the Sheriff's office.

The news of the rally was covered by all local television, radio and print media as well as state and national gay press and CNN Headline News. The media was supplied with press kits prior to the rally.

Michael Wanzie said it is interesting to note that the media used The Center as their source for news updates and news confirmations. Michael attributes this to the

recent community communication between We The People (based at The Center) and the media as well as interfacing with the Orlando Police department.

The rally, although a peaceful success, did meet with opposition when some Ku Klux Klan members protested against homosexuals, and the Reverend John Butler Book also showed discontent with approximately 20 followers. The antagonists were kept far from the human rights demonstrators by police barricades.

Despite opposition the rally was joined by many residents that boarder the park. Many came in curiosity, however most did show support for the positive efforts of the rally.

### FLORIDA LEGISLATURE...AT IT AGAIN

A mysterious bill is being drafted within the Florida legislature which would prohibit therapists and mental health counselors from counseling openly gay individuals on personal, sexual issues, and very few people seem to know about it.

The bill, known as proposition 491, not only discriminates against gays, but also against heterosexual couples living together.

One Orlando counselor, who wishes to remain anonymous, said she would have to ask each couple to produce a marriage license if they were to discuss sexual matters, and that she would lose 90 percent of her business if the bill were put into effect. She only heard

about proposition 491 through a conversation with other counselors on the subject of professional ethics.

Jim Ford, a representative for the political group We The People, stated he was unaware that such a bill was being drafted. Ford said he thinks that the proposition was only in planning stages for a possible vote next year.

Any information concerning proposition 491 was probably leaked from a committee, and it is too soon to tell whether proposition 491 will actually come to a vote.

Others who commented on the proposition feel it would not make it past the committee stages of planning, therefore it would not be submitted to the

legislature for an actual vote. The Florida legislature adjourns in mid June, thus voting on proposition 491 would have to take place next year.

Anyone concerned about the bill and its impact on human rights are encouraged to write state representatives to make them aware of the bill and encourage them to vote against it.

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# Stonewall Remembered

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York City, which began the gay rights movement as hundreds of gay men and women were involved in retaliating against repeated attacks and arrests by New York City police. One local personality, Alfredo Martinez-Garcia, was personally involved in the riot which changed gay history.

In a recent interview, Alfredo recalled the period before the riot as being very closeted, and places where gay people gathered were known only through word-of-mouth.

"There were no social outlets for gay men or lesbians at that time," said Alfredo.

Police raids on suspected bars were very common - so common, in fact, that the Stonewall Inn had a red light which, when "on," indicated that police were on the way. Men would then grab the nearest women or act "straight."

Alfredo recalls the tension which exploded on a hot, muggy New York night at The Stonewall as police proceeded to "kick some fag ass." It was the drag queens who led the spontaneous fight.

"These drag queens became the butchest men that you could ever imagine," recalled Alfredo, "The police did not expect the homosexuals would fight. They expected to cart them off as they usually did, but after we started fighting, the group moved into the street. People began grabbing bottles and rocks and throwing

them at (the police). And that was the beginning," Alfredo said with recalled excitement.

"For a couple of months after that we were really beginning to feel good about ourselves. For the first time in our lives we could actually be what we were. We could walk down the street and hold another man's hand, and if someone said something to us, then that was their problem; but if they got violent...we would get violent back. We were fed up."

Alfredo's own personal anger stemmed from the thought that authorities could legislate that he could not love his lover of 10 years.

Alfredo said that after Stonewall, the attitudes of gays became misdirected as gay rights took a back seat to personal lives; and although we are not harassed at bars today as we were 20 years ago, there are other ways in which we are victimized. There are support groups for gays whose policies state that homosexuality is wrong, churches which preach that homosexuals must repent, and repeated discrimination by police and other law enforcement agencies.

Alfredo wants to remind everyone that human rights are not just handed to us, they must be fought for. We must join together as a group and demand equality beyond police brutality.

"Don't just settle for crumbs," said Alfredo, "go for the big pie. Reach for the stars."



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## FTF vs. Judges

The Florida Task Force has become increasingly concerned about incidents in which judges have discriminated against people with AIDS who appear in court. Recent events in Lee County, Florida, have shown how bad the problem is.

In March, a Lee County judge named Skinner discovered that a man in court on a traffic violation had AIDS. Judge Skinner flew into a rage, ordered the man with AIDS from her court, ordered the courtroom sterilized and then "sentenced" the man to 90 days in jail by mail!

There have been similar incidents around Florida. After research, FTF's attorneys have learned that the Florida Supreme Court has the power to correct this problem. The Supreme Court can adopt a new "rule of procedure" that will effectively outlaw this kind of behavior. Any Florida citizen can petition the Court to take action.

What follows is form letter to the Supreme Court. FTF asks that you copy this letter and mail it as soon as possible to the address below.

Mr. Sid White, Clerk  
The Florida Supreme Court  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Mr. White,

I am a citizen of Florida and am outraged over the actions of Judge Skinner in Lee County, whose courtroom behavior in March violated the rights of a person with AIDS. There have been similar incidents elsewhere in Florida.

I understand the Florida Rule 2.130 permits me to petition the Supreme Court to adopt a needed rule of procedure. This letter is my request that the Supreme Court adopt a rule governing the proper treatment of infectious diseases in court and that this rule be based on the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control.

Judge Skinner's actions have shown the immediate need for this rule. Thank you.

Sincerely,

This article was reprinted from the May 5th edition of The Friendly Voice.

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# GAY COMPUTER SYSTEM

## OPENING CLOSET DOORS

by Ken Berg

A new gay computer system is expanding the dimensions of Central Florida gay life. Compu-Who, a new BBS (bulletin board system) is designed to help area gays make new friends, share software and keep up-to-date on area events.

Compu-Who is a smaller version of national computer networks such as CompuServe, in which "users" make use of a modem to tie in to a larger computer over telephone lines. Until the arrival of Compu-Who, Orlando gays had to use "alternative lifestyle" areas of major networks, or call long distance to one of the many gay networks in other cities.

Once "logged on" to Compu-Who, users can select from many options. One system highlight is "public chat" mode, in which multiple users participate simultaneously in a round-table discussion. One recent chat included users under such "handles" as HONEY, FLUFFY, FLEX, JOCK, AND LOLLIPOP engaging in a spirited exchange of campy remarks.

The system can be used as an electronic personals column, with special areas offered for those who prefer a greater level of frankness in describing themselves and their preferences. Users can also participate in more serious pursuits such as downloading public domain

software and graphics for use on their home computer. One of the more advanced features is a CD-ROM drive disk, similar in appearance to a home compact disk but containing a tremendous volume of software which users can access.

Some features of the system are free, but to get full a full range of services, users pay a subscription fee. Almost 200 users currently have Compu-Who accounts.

Compu-Who was originated by a shadowy figure known to users as TRON. A west-coast professional who relocated to Orlando late last year, TRON maintains the system as an after-work hobby.

"I feel as though I am doing something for the community," said TRON recently. "There are a lot of closeted people out there who don't go to the bars, and the BBS is their only outlet. They feel safe because there is that anonymous air about it."

In preparation for this article, comments about the impact of gay bulletin boards were requested over the Compu-Who electronic message system. Users responded with poignant and humorous stories that illustrate how such systems can be a big factor in helping people to ease themselves into acceptance of being gay and begin to enjoy a gay lifestyle.

"It allows people to take on a personality of their choosing, often totally different from what they really are," said a user known as 4QDT. "For me, it has been a fantastic way to get to know others of my persuasion, and has allowed me to come out of the closet."

Another user, CHIRON, described his shyness and fear in first approaching a gay BBS while in a straight marriage. Friends he made on the BBS helped both he and his wife through the difficult coming out period.

"I was able to discuss my inner-most feelings for the first time," explained CHIRON, "with someone I knew wouldn't judge me. I still keep in touch with most of the people that I've met and who helped me....It's like having a nationwide family, sort of."

Another user, JOHN, was living a straight lifestyle when he stumbled onto a gay bulletin board by accident. "I didn't even know it was gay," he said. "I thought it was kind of strange when guys started asking what I looked like...later I loosened up and got the nerve to meet someone on real life."

JOHN's first gay date was with a married gynecologist.

TRON, who operated a similar system in Los Angeles, points out that for many, using a "board" such as Compu-Who becomes habit

forming.

"Once you get the bug, the BBS fever, it becomes a way of life," says TRON. "It becomes addictive....You can log on with your account name and play as hard or as soft as you want. It's like being on vacation, because nobody knows you're you."

As system operator, TRON's duties include system maintenance and backup, keeping listings accurate, and monitoring accounts to make sure they are in fact legitimate and active. TRON also closely monitors and keeps the system clean of viruses and "trojan" programs which can travel over phone lines and damage computers. At times TRON seems to take the role of den mother, encouraging users to get the most out of the system, and admonishing those who abuse it.

Taking a philosophical turn, TRON reflected on the role of Compu-Who for Central Florida.

"I wanted to keep it totally gay, to get more community involvement. I could make more money if made it mixed, but that is not my purpose. If one person is learning something than the system, it has served it's purpose."

### HOW TO USE ORLANDO'S GAY COMPUTER SYSTEM

"Compu-Who" is an adult multi-line, multi-interest BBS, operating on the latest version of Oracomm software.

To begin using the system, there are a few things that you (your computer literate friend) will need to know:

Use a Hayes compatible modem set for 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no parity.

The system operates at speeds of 300, 1,200, 2400, or 9600 baud.

Call 356-3120 or 351-6736 for 2400 baud and higher.

Use the system password FOLD. You'll be asked to answer a short, tasteful questionnaire.

Good luck! Readers of the Center Fold who log on to the system after reading this article are welcomed to send messages to account MAXX (author of this article) or FILM (Center Fold Editor).

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# Leisure

## HERE & THERE

### GAY TRAVEL

by Bill Ehrig

The International Gay Travel Association is dedicated to elevating the standards of hospitality and travel industry members as well as supporting business and professional members who have joined together to encourage gay travel throughout the world.

IGTA works through educational efforts and programs to foster a better understanding by the public of gay related travel. These programs include travel shows for consumers and the travel trade; familiarization trips to destinations which appeal to gay and lesbian travelers; annual conventions and trade shows; workshops and marketing services giving hotels and tour operators the opportunity to distribute promotional material.

Such activities support networking between travel professionals and businesses, both gay and non-gay. IGTA also publishes a membership directory and newsletter with a focus on destinations and trends.

The 1989 IGTA convention, which was held in Vancouver, previewed "Celebration 90, Gay Games III and Cultural Festival" which will also be held in Vancouver in August of 1990.

Membership in IGTA is open to any individual, association, corporation or partnership directly or indirectly serving the travel needs of the public in the way of being travel agents, tour operator, supplies or operator of transportation, lodging or services.

For further information contact IGTA at 303-467-7117.

### GAY CULTURE

Publicizing gay awareness can be a difficult and laborious task. Publicity concerning gays often takes the form of demonstrations, protests or panel discussions. One local group, however, is promoting awareness of gay issues to the general public by bringing gay talent into the spotlight.

The Gay and Lesbian Cultural Workers of Orlando promote and sponsor various cultural activities which reflect a positive image for the gay community. The organization has been in existence for four years.

According to spokesperson Saviz Shafaic, the group does not produce cultural events, rather, they are the sponsor for events as the need arises.

"The whole idea was that there would be a few people with the resources or interests to help organize concerts, plays or readings from within the community," said Saviz.

"We organized so that resources could be joined together. And it would be easier with more people to have activities."

The cultural workers offers it's services to anyone interested in producing cultural events which help to promote a positive gay image.

Sponsored performers, such as Charlie King, Tom Wilson Weinberg and Charlie Murphy, perform original music which expounds on social issues of concern to the general public to perceive the similarities of artistic endeavors and social/political concerns between gays and non-gays.

The original idea for the local Cultural Workers came from the National Organization for Changing Men, a 14-year-old, nationwide group which promotes lesbian and gay culture on a larger scale.

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# "THE GROUPIES"

**Alan Kasper Bridge Club.** A group of Bridge players of varying skill levels gathers for a night of the game.

**Coming Out Discussion Group.** A group designed to deal with the pains and pleasures of coming out. This group is open to anyone who is in the coming out process.

**Courage to Change.** A group for friends and family members of alcoholics.

**GCS. Gay Community Services.** Operates Gay Telephone Hotline for gay peer counseling. Organizes monthly Gay Skate Parties. Raises and distributes funds to other gay outreach organizations. Also organizes yearly Gay Pride Week. 843-4297.

**Healing Circle.** A loving gathering of men and women using Louise Hay's principles to promote healing of body and spirit.

**LCN. Loving Committed Network.** Publishes a monthly newsletter, the "LCN Express", and provides monthly functions for women. Donna 273-1825.

**Men's Discussion Group.** Meets Wednesdays. Gay men come together to discuss a variety of topics pertaining to men.

**Gay Parents Coalition** This group is for parents who are gay. They meet the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm to discuss issues including family, children, and relationships. for more information contact Scott Alles or Larry Nacastro at 889-9919.

**Moonlight Bowling.** Late-night bowling at its best. This group meets at the Winter Park Bowl America Lanes.

**Movie Night.** The Center presents Friday Night at the Movies each week. There is no ticket price, however, refreshments are available for a donation.

**Orange Blossom Bowling Association.** Meets Tuesday nights at Winter Park Bowling Lanes. The leagues take over the facility for a fun night of bowling.

**Rap Group.** A mixed gathering of men and women, young and old, discussing a variety of topics concerning the gay community.

**Trans-Aid and Friends.** A group of people infected with or affected by AIDS. The group discusses a variety of topics of direct concern to those involved. The atmosphere is positive and uplifting for the healing benefit of all.

**We the People.** A concerned group of citizens gathered together to fight for the rights of all citizens.

**Women's Discussion Group.** Meets Wednesdays. Gay women and lesbians of the community gather to discuss any topic which pertains to women's issues and the community at large.

**Zion A.A.C.** A liturgical, charismatic church which believes that Christ died to save everyone including lesbians and gay men.

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C.O.N.T.A.C.T

**ACE, Inc. AIDS Coalition Endowment.** Public educational awareness endeavors, raising funds for Sharehouse. 422-0935

**AIDS Hotline.** Nationwide up-to-the-minute information. 1-800-342-AIDS.

**AID Orlando.** Anyone in Distress, including, but not limited to, people living with AIDS. Emergency assistance to anyone in the community in need. 648-9161

**AREA.** AIDS-related services for all of Central Florida. 843-4368.

**CENTAUR.** Central Florida AIDS Unified Resources. Orlando-based AIDS support, direct care and assistance, medical and counseling referrals, peer counseling groups. 849-1452.

**Drug Crisis Center.** Immediate counseling and withdrawal programs. 425-6611.

**Joy MCC.** Joy Metropolitan Community Church. A Christian church open to all denominations regardless of race, sex or sexual orientation.

**PFLAG.** Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays met the last Wednesday of each month at the Friends Meeting House, 316 Marks St., Orlando. This group was formed to provide a support system for families and friends of lesbians and gays in their effort to understand, accept and support their children and friends with love and pride. Write PFLAG, P.O.Box 141312, Orlando, Florida 32814-1312 for more information.

**Rape Crisis Center.** Counseling and emergency assistance. 648-3028.

**Trans-Aid.** A support service which provides prevention information (prophylactics, seminars, facts on AIDS) and patient care (transportation, group support meetings, training on self-care). Trans-Aid also networks with other support services and medical support groups. Office: 839-0945, Alfredo Martinez: 351-6930, Jim Gentese: 332-8374.

**We Care.** A 24-hour suicide intervention counseling service offered to anyone in a crisis. The service provides confidential, professional counseling. Call 628-1227 or the Teenline at 644-2027.

Telephone (305) 843-8390

David B. Slaughter

Attorney At Law



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**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wed**

**The Center Hours Are:**

**Mon.-Friday 1:00pm - 9:00pm**

**Sat. - Sun. 4:00pm- 9:00pm**

**Location: 1036 N. Mills Ave.**

**Mailing: PO Box 53346, Orlando,**

**Phone: 897-7097**

Joy MCC 7:15pm \*

Zion AAC 7:00pm

**4**

Coming Out Discussion Group  
7:00pm

Healing Circle 8:00pm

**5**

Rap Group 7:30pm

Orange Blossom Bowling Assoc.  
9:00pm \*

**6**

Women's Discu

Men's Discus

Joy MCC 7

**7**

Joy MCC 7:15pm \*

Zion AAC 7:00pm

**11**

Coming Out Discussion Group  
7:00pm

Healing Circle 8:00pm

**12**

Rap Group 7:30pm

Orange Blossom Bowling Assoc.  
9:00pm \*

**13**

Women's Discu

Men's Discus

Gay Parents

Joy MCC 7

**14**

Joy MCC 7:15pm \*

Zion AAC 7:00pm

**18**

The Center will  
be closed today.

"On Tina Tuna Walk" opens at the  
Enzian 8:00pm \*

**19**

Center Hours are 1pm-5pm

Gay film at Enzian "We Think the  
World of You" 8:00pm \*

**20**

AIDS Vigil  
7:

Center Hours

**21**

Gay Pride & Memorial Service at  
Joy MCC  
7:15pm \*

Zion AAC 7:00pm

Gay Pride Picnic  
12:00pm \*

**25**

Coming Out Discussion Group  
7:00pm

Healing Circle 8:00pm

**26**

Rap Group 7:30pm

Orange Blossom Bowling Assoc.  
9:00pm \*

**27**

Women's Discu

Men's Discus

PFLA

**28**



# R IN JUNE

day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2802	<p>Zion Prayer 7:00pm Courage to Change 8:15pm Trans-AID 7:00pm</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Movie Night at The Center Presents: "Witches of Eastwick" 7:30pm</p> <p>2</p>	<p>Movie Night at The Center Presents: "Suspect" 7:30pm</p> <p>3</p>
up 7:30pm 7:30pm 0pm *	<p>Zion Prayer 7:00pm Courage to Change 8:15pm Alan Kasper Bridge Club 7:30pm</p> <p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
up 7:30pm 7:30pm 7:30pm * 0pm *	<p>Zion Prayer 7:00pm Courage to Change 8:15pm Trans-AID 7:00pm</p> <p>15</p>	<p>Movie Night at The Center Presents: "Mask" 7:30pm</p> <p>16</p>	<p>LCN Gathering contact Donna at 273-1825.</p> <p>17</p>
ng Bee 5pm	<p>Center Hours are 1pm-5pm The Center will reopen after Potluck Social for an Open House and Cocktail Party.</p> <p>Pot-Luck Social 7:00pm *</p> <p>22</p>	<p>Center Hours are 1pm-5pm Art Show and Concert 6:30pm *</p> <p>23</p>	<p>Backyard Picnic 4:00pm We The People Rally 1:00pm * Celebration of Gay &amp; Lesbian Night Life *</p> <p>24</p>
up 7:30pm 7:30pm	<p>Zion Prayer 7:00pm Courage to Change 8:15pm Alan Kasper Bridge Club 7:30pm</p> <p>29</p>	<p>Movie Night at The Center Come and See! 7:30pm</p> <p>30</p>	<p>* Denotes this activity does not occur at The Center.</p>



# GaY Pride Week Calendar of Events

## MONDAY June 19th

Southeastern Gala Premiere: "On Tina Tuna Walk, " Written by John Glines.

ENZIAN THEATRE 1300 South Orlando Ave. (off Hwy. 1792 in Maitland)

8:00 p.m.

Tickets \$12.50 at The Center, or at the door (if available.)

Directed by and starring Paul "Ms P" Wegman. Featuring Michael Wanzie, Joel Strack. For more information call The Center at 894-7097.

## TUESDAY, June 20

Gay Film Debuts: "We Think the World of You."

ENZIAN THEATRE 1300 South Orlando Ave. (off Hwy. 1792 in Maitland)

7:15 p.m.

\$5.00 at the Door

This contemporary gay love story is being presented in conjunction with Pride Week, and will run throughout the week. Support for this film could help bring more gay and lesbian films to the area. For more information call the Enzian Theatre at 644-4662.

**and**

"On Tina Tuna Walk"

Footlights Theatre at Parliament House

Call

\$6.00. Tickets may be purchased in advance at Parliament House.

## WEDNESDAY June 21

AIDS Memorial and Quilting Bee

Metropolitan Community Church Offices --1613 East Page Street (off Ferncreek one block north of Michigan)

Donations accepted.

To remember victims of AIDS, a miniature quilt will be constructed following a brief memorial ceremony. Patches should be 12 inches square. New patches remembering those already a part of the large "Names Project" quilt are encouraged. For more information contact Jimmy Brock at Metropolitan Community Church, 894-1081.

## THURSDAY, June 22

Gay and Lesbian Community Pot-Luck Social

Society of Friends Meeting House 316 East Marks Street 7:00 p.m.

FREE!

Family atmosphere, homestyle dinner and open mike entertainment. Bring a covered dish. A Cocktail Social and Open House will be held at the Center immediately afterward. Performers, please register in advance! For more information call The Center at 894-7097

## FRIDAY June 23

Art Show and Concert

530 East Central Condominium (Corner of Central and Eola)

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Viewing 8:00 p.m. - Concert

\$20.00 The Center will receive a donation for each piece of artwork purchased. Invitations available at the Center.

A relaxed cultural evening of art and music. Performing on violin and piano will be Alan Busted of the Florida Symphony.

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON June 24

"Rally For our Rights!"

Lake Eola Park Downtown Orlando

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

FREE!

Stand up and be counted with Orlando's gay community at the political highlight of Pride Week! Guest speaker will be Charlene Campbell, lobbyist for the Florida Task Force and American Civil Liberties Union. For more information contact Jim Ford with We The People at 880-8340.

## SATURDAY EVENING June 24

Celebration of Gay and Lesbian Nightlife

Look to area bars and dance clubs to offer a variety of surprises in conjunction with Pride Week. Those holding tickets to Gay Pride Picnic will get special discounts! Your ticket will list the special offers.

## SUNDAY, June 25

Gay Pride Picnic

Lake Whippoorwill Resort 12345 Narcoossee Road (State Road 15)

Noon to 6:00 p.m.

\$4.00 per person. Parking 50 cents per car.

Fun, Fun, Fun! Gay Pride Week culminates in an afternoon of food and beverages, volleyball, exhibits, entertainment, swimming, sunning and lots of good times. Soft drinks, beer and wine will be offered. This event gets bigger and better each year - don't miss it! Advance tickets and carpooling are suggested, as a LARGE crowd is expected. Sponsored by Gay Community Services and Loving Connections Network. For more information contact The Center at 894-7097.

**and**

Gay Pride Memorial Service

Metropolitan Community Church 7:15 p.m.

A special service remembering those lost to AIDS will be held.

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# BUSINESS FAX

## A Business Against Crime

Story by Bill Ehrig

In an age of gay bashings and other hostile acts toward gays on the rise, it is crucial gays and lesbians be aware of ways to protect themselves. Citizens Against Crime is a company which specializes in giving seminars to companies and organizations in an effort to educate and inform individuals on ways to avoid becoming victims of crime.

C.A.C. is a national organization which was founded by Jerry Aires after he was the victim of a robbery in Nashville in 1979. He felt the need for an increase in public education on crime prevention.

Statistics indicated there is

only one police officer for every 87,000 Americans for crime prevention. C.A.C. has developed several programs centered around crime prevention for adults and children.

Gays are often targets of violence, which often occurs going to, and leaving gay bars or other places where gays congregate in public.

C.A.C. seminars pay particular attention to crime prevention around the home and the car. The program analyzes what actions people usually take and what actions they should have taken while being attacked. The seminars also include audience participation

and a good deal of humor is injected to make the event more effective and interesting.

Several safety items are made available by C.A.C. which are not normally available over the counter. This would include a defensive weapon called "The Defender," which consists of a military strength CS tear gas. Other items for sale include music tapes and activity books used as teaching guides for parents, as well as fire prevention items such as halon fire extinguishers and dual smoke detectors which are able to sense heavy smoke from smoldering fires as well as heavy flame

fires with little smoke.

With its home office in Dallas, Texas, C.A.C. currently has 38 offices nationwide. The local C.A.C. office in Orlando has been open for five years and currently employs 10 people and has five speakers. Its goals include developing positive ways to help people in crime prevention. Over the next ten years it is projected that these will be a C.A.C. office in every major city in the United States.



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## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

by Jade

Where would we be without our children? The furry and feathery joys of owning an animal. Ha, you say, it depends on what day you ask me! It depends on a lot of things, such as whether or not the dog chewed up your new shoes, or if the cat recently shred up the arm of the couch. Maybe the bird escaped from its cage and deposited a substance on your drapes. So at those times you shy away from asking anyone if they think their pet is a joy.

A big difference between an animal and a human child is that you would have the HRS after you if you were caught rubbing your baby's nose in a soiled diaper. I wasn't real thrilled with our dog until we finally house-broke her. Don't get me wrong, it's not that she was a dumb dog, for at the age of eight weeks she could sit, speak, come (ha, can't we all!)

and sit-up, but I guess house-breaking wasn't on her agenda until much later. But joy she brings to Carol and me, and yes, she is our child.

Animals though, have no shame. Our dog farts. Not your typical silent but deadly ones either. She lets loose with some real noise makers, New Years Eve style. Or take Key Largo's infamous bar cat, Zelda. She enjoys laying spread-eagle style on the pool table licking her you-know-what. Animals have no idea, nor do they care who Ms. Manners is.

Yes, our children...we feed them, pamper and care for them. And in return they bring laughter and love into our lives. Not to mention new furniture payments or cleaning bills, or the fact that you have had to increase your shoe budget until puppy either outgrew the chewing stage or you learned to put your shoes

away. But...I guess we grow old too soon, and smart too late.

The most peculiar pets we've encountered have been our neighbors pets. They are the proud owners of eight turkeys. To each their own, but we were not impressed the other morning when the turkeys decided to visit us under the bedroom window. Their gobbling sounded like a bunch of women laughing while playing Bingo. Needless to say when I looked out the window at them (at 7:30 in the a.m.) all I envisioned was which one would be better than a Butterball for our Thanksgiving dinner. I should also mention the little gifts they left behind in the yard, which our dog discovered and or course, rolled in. We didn't realize what she had done until we investigated the brown matter matted in the hair behind her ear. I wonder

why it is, though, when you discover a strange substance, your first instinct is to smell it?!

Who ever said a rooster only crows at the crack of dawn, lied. Our neighbors across the dirt road from us own a rooster. Miss thing cock-a-doodle-dos every five minutes. Although it is a noise we can tolerate, it seems to screw up our body clock. But if you really think about it, pets are pets and who are we to say what is a normal pet and what is not?? I do know that as long as I live I will always have some kind of pet because their antics keep me entertained. But no matter what kind of pet I might run across in the future I still think nothing could be more hilarious than a dog fart. Think about it...



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## ON THE EDGE

by James Athony

In the first two installments of my series "How to Be Gay," I covered speech patterns and clothing. This month I will take you on a tour of some of our most cherished abodes, to further discover just what it is that defines us as gay.

Modern technology and the sweat that is generated from truly intense interior decorating have combined to catapult gay people into the forefront of comfortable living.

The following, gathered during my endless quest, attest to this fact.

Edge Continued down the w



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## Edge Continued

**1. MIRRORS.** I once spent the night in an apartment which had been done completely in mirrors. The next morning, I was black and blue-- due not to the over-amorous ministrations of my host; rather, I found myself constantly banging into mirrored walls while trying to find my way to the bathroom. Only a gay person can make a one-room apartment recall Versailles.

**2. BORROWING FROM HISTORY.** There is something unsettling in going from a hot, palm-strewn parking lot into a home done up like an Egyptian tomb. By the same token, a bathroom patterned after the baths at Caracalla does not a romantic encounter make. A gay person will move from New York City to Fairbanks, Alaska, and then do his apartment exactly like the one he left behind. We are not satisfied blending into the local landscape. Then again, we shouldn't be.

**3. MOM.** I have many gay friends who moved from home, only to demonstrate how strong Mom's decorating influence really is. It begins when Mom stops by with "just a few things I thought you would need." Soon, you can't tell your place from hers, which makes it convenient when Grandma stops in.

**4. HOLLYWOOD.** In the 'thirties, everybody danced on black glass floors and had balconies. I know this because I have done exhaustive research. Gay people have time-capsuled these effects into the

'eighties. Any gay person who doesn't have black glass floors, or a balcony has either just broken up with somebody who did, or is really straight.

**5. ANTIQUES.** I once went to a party at a nice home and its owner started screaming at me as soon as I walked in the door. "Take off your shoes! That rug comes from Arabia and it's five hundred years old!" During the course of the evening I was warned against breathing in the direction of the English Regency chairs, the French Provincial table and the Greek bust. I felt like I was at a meeting of the United Nations' General Assembly; I expected U Thant to appear and call us to order.

**6. ARCHITECTURE.** We occupy every type of structure known to post-modern man. We can make the humblest hovel into a true HOME with our special tastes. A straight person living in the tract homes of Casselberry will long for Sweetwater Oaks. A gay person living in the same tract homes will pretend he or she is living at Court.

I belong to the species of gay person who thinks that he is living at Tara. To my way of thinking, a home should have columns. They say that columns are the penises of the architectonic mind; I say they look pretty good wrapped in ivy.

**7. MACHO.** This look is most prevalent in big cities. You have your brown leather everything; your studded bathroom fixtures; cacti with

menacing spikes; chains used as drawer pulls; a coffee table made from a manhole cover. If this sort of decor intimidates you, I suggest you return to the bar and find somebody who likes priscilla curtains. I have never been to the home of a macho woman.

**8. RANCH HOMES IN FAMILY SUBURBS.** There are some gay people who live in the land of the Stepford wife so they must be content. The advantages: "Pam," the friendly Mom with the flip hairdo who lives next door, is always dropping by with recipes, coupons and gardening hints. She and her family cast a blind eye upon you and your sobid ways simply because they are Episcopalians, and Episcopalians will never admit to being interested in what is going on in somebody's bedroom. It helps if you have a crush on "Ned," Pam's husband.

The disadvantages: Gay women have to act nonchalant when "Cindy," Pam and Ned's daughter, goes out on Friday night wearing a tight mini, a halter top, and teased hair. Gay men have to feign disinterest when "Chip," Pam and Ned's son, decides to wash his beach buggy while wearing a pair of white speedos.

**9. THE GARDEN.** In the realm of the dandelion, Gay men and women truly differ. A gay man will fill his landscape with imported plants which grow only in Madagascar, and will weep when they all die. He will also install a statue of David in the back yard; Cindy and Chip are always hoisting their friends over the fence so they can have a peep.

A gay woman will decide early in life that she will have the best lawn on the block. This seems assured since there

are many lesbians active in the landscaping business. Unfortunately, she is always being called to help her women friends mow somebody else's lawn on weekends; hence, her own turf suffers. The gay woman will then do her property completely in cypress mulch. Pam and Ned tend to look the other way when driving by.

Regardless of how we live, I would like all of us to remember that it is our inner selves that really matter. Whether you choose to come out to the world, or to come out quietly to yourself, keep in mind that living with yourself will always be more important than what you tell you must show to the world.

Next Month: Social Customs...The Theatre of Illusion.

no. 48

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## IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

### ONE OBSERVER: Speaking At The Rally

A WRITTEN TRANSCRIPT OF MICHAEL WANZIE'S SPEECH MADE AT THE RALLY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA.

We have come here today not to scream or shout or steal anything away from the general public, but simply to claim our rights. We ask no special favors, no special treatment, but simply to be treated as equals.

To the citizens of Orlando we would like to say: Gay and Lesbian people are here. We always have been here, and we always will be here!

We have been a natural part of the make-up of this planet since the beginning of humankind. It must be obvious we are here to stay. We do share this planet, this country, this city. So maybe things would go a whole lot better if we all could accept that fact and respect one another as equal occupants of mother earth, and specifically the United States of America.

We are here, and as a whole we are not the monsters so many believe us to be. We are and want to continue to be good neighbors. The fact that Tom Woodard, a man of alternative sexual identity was holding a responsible job affecting the lives of the entire community is not a rarity; it is the norm.

Wake up and smell the coffee, Orlando, because it is burning on the stove. Realize that we are your doctors, lawyers, financial advisors, chefs, mechanics, builders, educators, and the makers of the magic at area attractions.

With out the Gay and Lesbian presence in your community, the space program would suffer, the arts would be crippled, our primary and secondary school systems would be grossly understaffed. With out our presence, the tax base would be severely diminished. And Walt Disney World would be forced to become America's first self-service amusement park.

There are well over 90,000 Gay and Lesbian citizens who make vital and healthy contributions to the Orlando community and yet continue to be discriminated against, even if it means that the law enforcers break the law in order to do so. Obviously the saying holds true: This is Florida, the rules are different here.

America is a country born out of a need for personal and religious freedom. Now religious factions sit in judgment against anyone who believes or behaves differently. And by supporting Sheriff Gallagher's actions they are helping to squash the very freedoms their ancestors fought to create, and that's not right. That is not just and that is anything but American!

And so I would like to address personally those individuals who, for whatever reasons, fear us and oppose us the most. To those people, let me say we are not asking you to give up your beliefs and we respect your right to hold onto those beliefs as much as we do ours. But we do ask you today to set aside your judgments and we beg you to stand with us today because no one is truly free until every last one of us is free.

Stand with us because this is not a gay rights issue. This is a situation that threatens your rights and the rights of your children. If you elect to remain silent while Tom Woodard loses his job because one person or group of persons disagrees with how Mr. Woodard conducts his personal life, then by your silence what you are really saying quite loudly and quite clearly to this government is that it is okay to discriminate against me, fire me, put up a cross and crucify me simply because I'm different or because I am a Christian, or a Jew, or a female, or black, or foreign, or handicapped, or because I have green eyes or red hair. It is just that clear. It is just that simple, it is just that ridicu-

lous! In order to circumvent that ridiculous logic we entreat you to stand with us.

A quote is remembered from the holocaust. "First they came for the Jews, and I did not speak up because I was not a Jew. Next they came for the anarchists, and I did not speak up because I was not an anarchist. Then they came for the Protestants and the Catholics, and again I did not speak up because I was not a Protestant or Catholic. Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak up."

### Pageant Time

The PARLIAMENT HOUSE will host the MISS FLORIDA U.S.A. AT LARGE PAGEANT on Monday evening June 19th at 9:00pm.

Contestants who wish to vie for the title and the right to compete in the national pageant should contact David Scott at 425-7571 for details and registration information.

Also on the very next night the P House will host the first of its three performances of ON TINA TUNA WALK featuring Paul Wegman and Michael Wanzie. Advance tickets at \$6.00 per person are available at THE CENTER and at the Parliament House front desk beginning June 6th.

Being the busy place that it is the P House will also play host for the Orange Blossom Bowling Association turn-about night on Wednesday June 14th. (please see OUT TAKES for details)

### Southern Summer

Remember that throughout the entire summer the good folks at Southern Nights throw a free cookout with free draft beer out on the back patio each and every Sunday of the season beginning at 7:00pm.

### Cardboard Treats?

Hanks bar will be selling cardboard cupcakes throughout the month of June. MMMMmm doesn't that sound delicious? Well the cupcakes aren't to eat they are meant to be signed by you at the cost of one dollar. The cupcake reads.....A Sweet Donation From.....and you fill in your name and it, the cupcake, gets hung up making Hanks look all pretty and stuff and declaring you a caring individual. All of the proceeds from the bake sale are earmarked for aids related organizations. On June 30th an auction will take place wherein the highest bidder will win the right to cut off bartender Mickey's beard.

### New Gay Shop

FETI-CHEZ' (pronounced fetishes) is an oh-so-gay romp into the attic of your foofiest dreams. It's feathers and sequins and boas oh my!

It's also rice paper lanterns and art deco lighting with brick-a-brack and pink flamingos galore.

Shop owner Tom Miavitz (family) has assembled a vast array of giftware including Frankart reproductions and genuine Fiesta china tableware interspersed with feathered evening jackets and Mardi Gras face masks appropriate for the most elegant masquerade ball or just a evening out with the boys. (yes that entire paragraph was one sentence.....get over it.) And then get over to FETI-CHEZ' at 339-B Park Ave South in beautiful Winter Park Florida, just off the avenue across from the police dept. Isn't that special!



# OUT TAKES

## Yard Sale

On May 6 another Combined Groups Yard Sale was held. There were four groups participating in this event: the Gay and Lesbian Center of Central Florida, the National Organization for Women, the Gay Parents Coalition, and Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays. There were a total of 294 individual sales with gross sales of \$396.60. Past and present contributions netted The Center \$194.40. Michael Wanzie represented The Center, working the entire day, as well as helping to set up and pack up.

The next sale, date to be announced, will be later on this summer. Contributions to this sale are needed to replenish the saleable items. Please donate whatever you can; check with friends to see that they can donate too, and take these items to The Center. Items in particular demand are tools, large size men's and women's clothing (in good condition), and sports equipment (also, in good condition).

Because some of the buyers (and a very small percentage) shoplift (even at these prices!), it is imperative that the sale have more help. It is important that The Center supply at least two persons who will work at the sale, one in the morning (7:00 a.m. to noon), and one in the afternoon (noon to 5:00 p.m.). The sale officially ends at 4 p.m. but pack-up assistance is needed.

If you can volunteer AND SHOW UP, please do so. Your help will be greatly appreciated. (If you can work all day, so much the better!) A site is also needed for the next sale. There should be plenty of easy parking, be in the Metro Orlando area, have space for ten to fifteen tables, and, most importantly, lots of shade.

For further information please call Allene at 896-0689 after 6:00 p.m. or The Center at 894-7097.

## O.B.B.A.

The O.B.B.A. (you know, those gay and lesbian bowling type people) are going to raise some funds for their July Invitational Tournament. So how are they going to do it you ask? Well they are going to get dressed up in clothing befitting the gender they are not and move their lips to recordings of voices that are not their own. This will take place on the stage of the Footlights Theatre inside the Parliament House complex on the evening of Wednesday June 14th at 10:00 in the evening all for regular cover charge. The show does not promise to be professional or even pretty. It does however promise to be something not to be missed. By the way the bowler types are calling this turnabout event Turn-a-Bout. Too clever for words. Be there!

## On Tina Tuna Walk

The Southeastern debut of John Glines' off Broadway hit "On Tina Tuna Walk" will Premiere at the Enzian Theatre in Maitland, on June 19, and will continue at the Footlight Theatre of the Parliament House the following night. Tickets are still available. For further information, call The Center at 894-7097.

## H·E·L·P

The Center Fold is searching for a few, good, volunteer staff writers. If you are interested in interviewing and writing news stories, feature articles or entertainment pieces, call or write The Center Fold Editor, Eriq Poff at 407-839-4976 or 4211 Winford Circle, Orlando, Florida, 32809.

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### ROOMMATES!

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### HAIRDESIGNERS

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### ROOMMATE NEEDED

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